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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 316

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26 April 1983

WORLDWIDE REPORT

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NATION SAID TO BE UNPREPARED TO FIGHT ANY NEW FLU STRAIN

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Jan 83 p 1

[Article by Mark Metherell] is ill-prepared to fight any new virulent influenza strain, according to an Australian scientist, Dr Graeme Laver, who helped develop the first safe flu vaccine.

Dr Laver said there were significant doubts about the effectiveness of the flu vaccine now available. If a completely new virus appeared, as seemed to happen about every 15 years, the results could be disastrous in terms of death and lost production.

Yesterday the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories revealed that production of this year's batch of flu vaccine would be at least two months late. This was because of last-minute changes in the vaccine's composition to provide protection against two new minor flu strains that have appeared recently.

The director of CSL, Dr Neville McCarthy, said the laboratories had had to dump about 800,000 doses of freshly made vaccine, worth about \$500,000, after a Federal Government committee decided last month to alter the composition.

Dr McCarthy said this means that the vaccine to meet this year's expected virus strains would not now be available until May. Normally, CSL tried to have the vaccine ready by March, he said.

Dr Laver, a senior fellow at the John Curtin school of medical research in Canberra and an authority on influenza, said the last-minute changes in CSL's vaccines highlighted the need for research aimed at producing a vaccine that covered all flu strains.

"The flu virus changes so quickly that manufacturers cannot keep up with the changes," he said. "If a completely different strain came along, the old vaccine would be totally useless. It may be very difficult to develop a vaccine for all strains but we won't know if we don't put any research money into it."

He said it would be quite possible for a particularly lethal type of flu to emerge. One such strain killed millions after World War I. Even with the help of modern medicine and antibiotics, such a virulent strain would cause widespread death and illness.

While vaccines for most diseases had proved effective, the flu vaccine still had mixed results and this could explain why its use appeared to have declined in recent years, Dr Laver said.

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

HEPATITIS OUTBREAK IN PARANAGUA--The health authorities of Paranagua port still have not been able to localize the outbreak of hepatitis which has already affected 178 persons in this city. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Mar 83 p 6 PY]

CSO: 5400/2066

MOSQUITO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN YAOUNDE

Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in French 27-28 Feb 83 p 4

[Article by Andre-Vincent Ekani: "Proliferation of Mosquitos in Yaounde. The Ministry of Health Is Planning a Large-Scale Eradication Campaign In the Coming Days"]

[Text] For several weeks now, the people in Yaounde have been complaining that they cannot get any sleep any more. The reason for this complaint, expressed by people from all social backgrounds, is the proliferation of mosquitos in the capital, although spraying campaigns were organized last year in April by the municipality and by the Ministry of Public Health.

The objective of the campaign was to destroy all vectors of diseases in and around homes. In particular, the campaign was intended to get rid of all pests such as flies, mosquitos, roaches, lice, bed bugs, etc. Such a campaign had become urgent as the number of malaria patients kept increasing at a disturbing rate. Malaria had become the leading disease reported by community clinics and even by the central hospital. Field experiments carried out by the Department of Entomology (the science of insects) at the Ministry of Public Health had revealed a proliferation of mosquito-larvae breeding-grounds in the town. As a result, the municipality and the Ministry of Health had decided to carry out a joint program to control the pests.

For the spraying campaign, two pesticides especially appreciated for their effectiveness were used: "piritur lacque" [as published] and "safrotih" [as published]. The campaign was to take place according to a spraying program by district and by arrondissement (Yaounde I, Yaounde II, Yaounde III, etc.). However, it was not possible to adhere strictly to the spraying schedule because of certain difficulties encountered in the field. Not to mention the lack of understanding of the people who do not always grasp the reasons for the hygiene instructions they are given. Also, the high cost of the insecticides and the inadequacy of the campaign operating budget had a marked incidence on its implementation.

Another spraying campaign was started last October, this time outside homes. It was organized by the Ministry of Public Health as part of the "Welcome" project, and it used the "Resline" pesticide to kill the mosquitos that live outside houses but will get into them after nightfall. This is especially

the case of the anopheles mosquito that transmits malaria through its bites. According to officials, this campaign met with many difficulties, especially concerning the logistic coverage of the town. For instance, working-class districts were not covered by the six vehicles which had been chartered for the campaign and which can be seen inside the former Red Cross building, going up to the central hospital. The campaign had to be interrupted because of all the difficulties encountered, but the Ministry of Health intends to start it again in the near future. Its range will be extended to include all districts of Yaounde, not only the center of the town as initially planned. Studies concerning this new start are already completed and a decision should be made soon.

In the meanwhile, Yaounde inhabitants are getting practically no sleep, precisely because of the mosquitos whose bites keep creating havoc. The Directorate of Preventive Medicine and Public Hygiene states that mosquitos are actually proliferating in the town, although no accurate figures are available.

This proliferation is said to be due to the attenuation or decline in the effectiveness of the spraying campaign which, as is now known, could not be completed. As a result, mosquitos keep breeding in the capital, which keeps expanding. In addition, mosquito breeding-grounds are getting more numerous because of the very development of the town of Yaounde and the ensuing problems. For instance, large public work sites, underground pipes in the town, water puddles, ponds and household garbage such as food cans, are as many breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Faced with such a proliferation of mosquitos, Yaounde inhabitants are protecting themselves as they can with the many and more or less effective insecticides available on the market, whose advertising slogans rival in sophistication and cleverness. Yet, it is impossible to assess with precision their impact in controlling the pests, which continue to multiply. Fly-Tox, Timor, Mobil, Baygon, Mosquito, Raid, Moon Tiger, Vape Mat, etc. These are as many products offered to a suffering population which cannot but rush in despair toward each new product which purports to be "the best mosquito killer of all times."

Mosquito control, as we were told by an official at the Ministry of Health, and pest control in general is a long and exacting task that requires considerable means and should be undertaken periodically. If it is to achieve its objectives, the population's cooperation must be secured. The people must follow to the letter the public hygiene instructions given to them.

However, the town of Yaounde is not the only one to be affected by mosquitos and other harmful pests. The Ministry of Public Health is planning to extend next year's campaign against these pests to other towns in the country. The amount allocated to this campaign in the budget will determine the actual extent of the campaign.

DENMARK

NEW RULES ISSUED TO PREVENT PANIC OF MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 26 Mar 83 p 3

[Article by Dan Axel]

[Text] Close cooperation on the part of doctors, health officials and nursery-school, daycare, youth club and school administrators will guard in the future against scenes of panic arising when contagious diseases are found--or simply suspected--among children in these institutions.

A new directive on contagious disease procedures takes effect 1 April. Here Internal Affairs Minister Britta Schall Holberg is responding to a demand from many parents and institutional leaders who felt shut out when some clustered cases of meningitis broke out around New Year's.

The new contingency plan is based on attending doctors quickly informing the official health officer--either orally or by telephone--who will then inform the heads of affected institutions as soon as possible. This bulletin will contain information from health officials about which groups of people should be given detailed information about the disease and the proper preventive measures. Health officials will determine the content of the information to be given to parents, but it will be conveyed to them by the heads of the institutions.

During this winter's meningitis outbreak, there was great anxiety among parents and personnel who had been in contact with infected children. "I have received many good suggestions from parents," said Britta Schall Holberg. "And they have been used in preparing the new directive."

The directive covers contagious diseases such as typhus, polio, diphtheria, tuberculosis, plague, cholera and dysentery--as well as meningitis, the reason for updating the directive.

It is also now up to the Board of Health to set more detailed guidelines for the best preparations for the new provisions. One of the things discussed has been an expansion of the "packaged plans" for schools and institutions--the prepared packets of information and advice that already exist in many places.

6578

CSO: 5400/2528

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLIO

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Feb 83 p 6

[Article by Nasrin 'Azab: "Immunization Against Polio in March"]

[Text] A nationwide campaign for immunization against polio begins on 1 March. The immunization will cover 4.5 million children from three months to three years of age. The immunization will be given in three doses, the first on 1 March, the second on 1 April and the third on 1 May. They will be administered in all health units and centers, and maternity and child care centers in all governorates.

The Ministry of Health decided to bolster the training network in all health units and to supply each unit with a refrigerator to operate 24 hours a day, as well as to provide fully refrigerated vehicles to transport the vaccine, according to a statement made by Dr Ahmad Taha, undersecretary of the ministry for the preventive medicine sector.

A Supreme Committee

Dr Sabri Zaki, minister of health, has promulgated a decree forming a supreme committee for vaccinations under the chairmanship of Dr Mamduh Jabr, head of the pediatrics section at the University of Cairo and a former minister of health. The committee will include Dr Safwat Shukri, professor of pediatrics at the University of Cairo; Ahmad Taha, undersecretary of the ministry of the preventive medicine sector; Yahya al-Jamal, professor of pediatrics; Iman Zaghlul, head of the general body for serology and vaccination; Ahmad al-'Aqqad, ministry counselor for preventive affairs; Salah Madkur, director general of infectious diseases at the ministry [of Health]; and Saghiyah Ibrahim, director of the polio institute. The committee will review all immunizations in Egypt from the standpoint of dates.

Participating in the campaign will be all the information media, the health education machinery of the ministry of health, medical mobile units, the Society of Friends of the Sick, and preventive health clubs of the undersecretaries of the ministry and directors general in the governorate in order to plan the steps for implementation to assure a successful campaign.

8389

CSO: 5400/4605

MASSIVE ANTI-POLIO PROJECT UNDERWAY

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by Muhammad Mahmud: "Inoculation of 5 Million Children against Infantile Paralysis in the course of 10 Days"]

[Text] The national inoculation campaign against infantile paralysis began yesterday. Four thousand teams are taking part in the inoculation of 5 million children in Cairo and the governorates. The campaign will go on for 10 days and all children aged 3 months to 3 years will be inoculated. The campaign will continue during the official holidays and will end on 16 March.

Dr Ahmad Taha, the deputy minister of health for preventive affairs, stated "The disease of infantile paralysis afflicts our children below age five, especially those who are less than 3, and it still causes a serious health problem in the Arab Republic of Egypt, since it leaves children who have been afflicted with a degree of disability or incapacity that can stay with them all their lives, causing them pain and their families sorrow and grief, in addition to exorbitant treatment and therapy costs.

He stated that preventive measures against this disease are easy and simple, because there is a dose that can be given orally and is effective. The child gets a positive immunization against the disease. The ministry has stipulated this campaign, in addition to a program of compulsory inoculation which is now being carried out as part of the initial inoculation against contagious diseases which the preventive health units are carrying out."

He pointed out that the goal of the campaign is to substitute tame strains of the infantile paralysis virus which have no power to cause disease but can create a positive immunity against harmful strains of the virus which circulate among people and which, if given a chance, can precipitate the disease, especially among children.

Dr Munir Sharif, the deputy minister of health for Giza, said that 318,000 children started to be inoculated in the governorate as of yesterday by 253 inoculation teams spread about in health bureaus, rural health units, mother and child care units, schools, National Party headquarters, agricultural and philanthropic societies, and mosques, which are operating from 0800 hours in the morning to 1300 in the afternoon, then from 1500 to 2000 hours in the afternoon.

The deputy minister of health for Giza added that there are no harmful effects from this inoculation, which consists of giving children two drops of the dose orally and there are no harmful effects from a repetition of the dose. He asked mothers not to breast feed children for a period of 1 hour before nursing and another hour after nursing and said that there was no harm in giving inoculations, except in the case of children who had a high temperature, diarrhea or severe vomiting.

11887

CSO: 5400/4607

TAMIL NADU HEALTH MINISTER ON CHOLERA SCARE

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

MADRAS, March 9.

Acute gastro-enteritis and jaundice have claimed 115 lives in the past two months in Madras, South Arcot and Ramanathapuram districts.

Dr. H. V. Hande, Health Minister, who gave this information in the State Assembly today, said the Government was taking all precautionary measures like chlorinating the drinking water supply in Madras as also all sources of water supply in the rural areas. Private wells and overhead tanks were being examined periodically to prevent the risk of water-borne diseases.

The Minister said an unnecessary scare was being created that the deaths were due to outbreak of cholera. Medical tests had clearly proved that the fatalities were caused by gastro-enteritis.

Dr. Hande was opposing leave for an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Congress (I), DMK, CPI and CPI (M) members on what they called the Government's complacency in taking effective measures to prevent the outbreak of cholera and jaundice.

The Minister said there was a wrong notion among the people that those affected by gastro-enteritis should not take water. The best remedy was to consume water with a teaspoonful of sugar and a pinch of salt to prevent dehydration. Widespread publicity was now being given in the rural areas that those af-

flicted by gastro-enteritis should take adequate quantity of water.

Dr. Hande said gastro-enteritis and jaundice had claimed 16 and 15 lives respectively in Madras, while South Arcot and Ramanathapuram districts reported 43 and 41 deaths mainly due to acute gastro-enteritis.

The Tamil Nadu Government had sought financial assistance of Rs. 17.05 crores from the Central drought relief team, which recently visited the State, for providing curative medicine for water-borne diseases, multi-vitamin tablets to children and pregnant women for preventing malnutrition, and for the provision of vaccine to treat people.

The Minister said that though 2,025 people were affected by acute gastro-enteritis in Madras, only 16 of them died. Similarly, out of 672 cases of jaundice, 15 proved fatal.

Messrs. R. Rajamanickam (DMK), D. Moni (CPI-M), S. Sivaswami (CPI) and N. S. V. Chithan (Cong.-I) contended that the diseases were mainly due to the inability of the Government to provide potable drinking water to the people. They said cholera and jaundice had broken out on a large scale in the rural areas and accused the Government of not taking timely steps to arrest the spread of the diseases.

Mr. K. Rajaram, Speaker, withheld consent to the motion after the Minister's reply.

CSO: 5400/7088

BRIEFS

DYSENTERY EPIDEMIC IN IRIAN JAYA--About 300 persons are dead in the dysentery epidemic which for some time has been coursing through Jayawijaya and Paniai Regencies in Irian Jaya. Precise data on the number of deaths is unobtainable because the stricken villages are scattered throughout the region. However, according to data recently assembled by missionaries in the stricken area, 125 persons have died since October. The number of deaths continued to increase to 300 by mid-January. It is reported that the epidemic struck a number of subdistricts in Jayawijaya Regency including Tiom, Kurima, Karubaga Subdistricts and Ilaga Subdistrict in Paniai Regency. Pastor Catto, head of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Irian Jaya, told KOMPAS on Saturday, 29 January, that he feared the epidemic would spread throughout the Jayawijaya and Paniai Regencies unless intensive control measures were undertaken. Catto further explained that in his estimation the epidemic was caused by the long drought. The ground in that region is so dry that it is cracked. People's gardens have been destroyed and many water sources have dried up. To keep alive, the people, whose knowledge of hygiene is poor, seek potable water, using any water source available. He judged that water containing ameoba bacteria caused the dysentery. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 Jan 83 pp 1, 12] 6804

MALARIA IN CENTRAL LAMPUNG--In the past 2 months malaria has killed 44 residents of Kuala Kambas, Central Lampung. According to unofficial records collected by KOMPAS from the neighborhood association chiefs in the coastal area, there were 152 deaths and 24 persons are critically ill. According to KOMPAS's information, almost all of the epidemic victims have the same symptoms: hardened abdomen, dizziness, and alternating spells of chills and fever. Dr Bambang Supratomo of the Way Mili Public Health Center, who examined the people, ascertained that almost all had malaria. He was in Kuala Kambas for 4 days in mid-January and examined 150 patients all of whom had malaria but he refused to tell KOMPAS that malaria had spread in Kuala Kambas. He said it was just a "concentration" of malaria in the area, but he confirmed that this many deaths in the swampy area was not routine but was extraordinary. Kube, chief of the Kuala Kambas tribe, said the first deaths occurred on 25 November. In mid-December, when the number of deaths reached 30, Kube reported that fact to the Labuhan Meringgai Subdistrict head but he only arrived 10 days later to observe the situation accompanied by 2 staff members from the public health center. Kube said the deaths peaked in early January when they occurred daily.

During that period seven persons died per day. Kuala Kambas is located on the eastern shore of Lampung, 160 kilometers from Tanjung Karang and is the best Indonesian national wildlife preserve. Communication with the outside world is very difficult. To buy basic necessities or fuel, the people must go to Karang-hantu Serang or to Labuhan Meringgai which is 2 hours from Kuala Kambas by speedboat. It is planned that the 2,761 persons who now inhabit Kuala Kambas will be moved out of the area to other places including Labuhan Meringgai. As of 2 weeks ago, residents of Kuala Kambas had left the area because they feared malaria. The only school there has been closed for almost a month. A number of pupils were sent to Java by their parents. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 9] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN PACITAN REGENCY--By the end of last week 59 residents of Pacitan Regency were stricken with gastroenteritis: 34 from Ngadirejo Sub-district, 2 of whom died, and 25 from Pacitan City Subdistrict, 1 of whom died. Poedjo Effendi, secretary of the Pacitan Regency provincial region, told MERDEKA that his side has conducted an investigation of these two areas. A health unit has been assigned to each village stricken by the gastroenteritis epidemic to speed up a solution to the problem. Rations of medications and water purifiers (kaporit) have also been sent to these locations in addition to providing information to the people on preventing its spread to other villages. [Excerpt] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 24 Jan 83 p 4] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN LUMAJANG REGENCY--Two subdistricts in Lumajang Regency are believed to be stricken with cholera or gastroenteritis, including Kunir Sub-district where 34 persons were stricken and Randuagung Subdistrict, where 62 persons were stricken, with 4 deaths in Kunir Subdistrict and 3 in Randuagung Regency. This was revealed by Dr Djoemadi Doeldjadi, chief of the Lumajang Regency Health Service, concurrently chief of the Lumajant General Hospital, when he met with MERDEKA on Thursday, 20 January, in his office. Gastroenteritis was believed to have spread sporadically from the beginning of January to 20 January to 210 persons (children as well as adults). Most cases occurred in Kunir and Randuagung Districts, Dr Djoemadi said. Dr Mariana, a Kunir Sub-district Public Health Center doctor, who actually is employed by the Health Service office to report on this problem, when contacted by MERDEKA, said most of the rural people still have faith in the dukuns [shamans]. Children as well as adults stricken with a disease are taken to the dukun before they are taken to the nearest public health center. They only go to the public health center when the situation becomes critical. [Excerpts] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 26 Jan 83 p 4] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN EAST JAVA--Gastroenteritis which coursed through East Java from October to January resulted in 68 deaths and 3,808 persons had to be treated at hospitals. Many were also treated on an outpatient basis and have been cured. The gastroenteritis epidemic struck 11 regencies including Gresik, Banyuwangi, Blitar, Tuban, Sumenep, Bondowoso, Pasuruan, Kediri, Lumajang, Sidoarjo, and Pacitan. There are 26 subdistricts in these 11 regencies. [Excerpt] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 27 Jan 83 p 4] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN WEST SUMATRA--The working meeting of the West Sumatra Regional Government, planned to be held in Lubukbasung, Agam Regency, from 7 to 9 February was postponed suddenly because gastroenteritis has been spreading throughout the area for the past few days. Drs H. Sjoerkani, secretary of the West Sumatra provincial region, said the working meeting was postponed at the recommendation of Dr H. Rafki Ismail, chief of the West Sumatra Department of Health KANWIL[regional office], and M. Nur Syafei, regent of Agam Regency. "It is impossible to hold the working meeting which was to have been attended by the governor and core officials of the Level I regional governments, KANWIL chiefs and service chiefs, bankers, and all regents and mayors of the area where the gastroenteritis has been spreading," Sjoerkani said. Queried by ANTARA, Dr H. Rafki Ismail said that as of Friday [4 February] 1 person was recorded as having died and 33 others were treated for gastroenteritis. [Excerpts] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 7 Feb 83 p 2] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN AMBON--Since the beginning of this month most of the residents of Ambon City and its environs have been concerned about gastroenteritis which has been claiming many victims daily. Gastroenteritis has stricken individuals of all ages. The Ambon Municipal Health Service is being cautious about commenting on the gastroenteritis outbreak while the number of victims continues to rise. Hospitals in Ambon City are crowded with patients and have been forced to turn others away because no beds are available. At least 5 deaths were recorded daily at the Kudamati Hospital in Ambon. [Excerpts] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 14 Feb 83 p 4] 6804

CSO: 5400/8418

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HELP FOR HERPES--Sufferers of herpes, that debilitating venereal disease that has spread like wild fire over the last couple of years, may soon find relief in a new drug developed by an Israeli pharmaceutical company. Yisrael Makiv, general manager of Interpharm, the drug manufacturer associated with the Weizmann Institute, says his company has developed a new variation of an anti-viral agent called interpron which is effective against meningitis, eye infections, jaundice and a host of viral diseases. Herpes is among them, and preliminary testing has found the new drug able to combat the symptoms and effects of the dreaded disease. More than 20 million Americans and some two percent of Israel's population suffer from the physically painful and highly infectious ailment. The new drug, as yet unnamed, will be on the market in just a few years, says Makiv. [Text] [Tel Aviv NEWSVIEW in English No 4, 25 Jan 83 p 31]

CSO: 5400/4513

CHAMPASSAK MALARIA SUPPRESSION, RESEARCH TECHNIQUES REPORTED

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 29 Jan 83 p 3

[Article by S. Malathong: "Outstanding Malaria Combatants"]

[Text] The LPRP Third Congress considered disease prevention as primary, and disease treatment to be an important task. In 1982 Champassak provincial specialized task malaria cadres determinedly emulated each other in the work of maintaining the health of cadres, soldiers and the people of different races. During that period they did blood tests, gave medicines to patients, successfully searched for Malaria-carrying mosquitos in 10 districts and caught a total of over 5,000 mosquitos, including over 20 species of malaria-carrying mosquitos, e.g., [vilimout and malava]. They succeeded in spraying DDT in the base level. This decreased malaria by as much as 83.84 percent.

After that a number of cadres and government employees in the malaria section in Champassak Province were selected as outstanding persons who are enthusiastic and creative in their work. Dos Keota is one of them. She is a medical cadre who is trusted by the higher echelons and her colleagues. She is persevering, prudent, witty and cheerful. She likes to learn through friends, teams and experiences.

Keota has been involved in specialized tasks in the medical field since she was 18. She is now 25 and a medical doctor in the malaria suppression unit in Champassak. She never complains about the hard work, and prefers it to light work. She will complete her work assigned by the organization, [working] in each place sometimes 15 days or 1-2 months in order to catch mosquitos for biopsy to find parasites [malaria] and to spray DDT for malaria suppression. She told us about extraordinary efforts to catch mosquitos. They had to take off their blouses and wear only short pants and sit in the middle of the clear land, under houses, in places where animals live, and the edge of the water to let the mosquitos bite them, and then catch them. Dr Theun of the provincial malaria suppression section said that during the disease suppression they caught mosquitos in 10 districts. Keota decided to sit alone from 7 to 9 pm. When she couldn't get any mosquitos she tried to continue sitting from 10 pm to midnight until she could catch mosquitos to biopsy in search of malaria. Keota is a beloved child of the people in Sanasomboon, Champassak Province. She is ready to continue her small achievement in order to take part in this work and to succeed in the set plan as expected.

9884

CSO: 5400/4381

BRIEFS

SAVANNAKHET MALARIA WORK--In 1982 in Savannakhet there was a solid public health network from the provincial level on down to the district and canton levels; there were village health combatants, research branches for disease prevention, water, traditional medicines, etc. Now there are 2 provincial hospitals in Savannakhet. One is at the wall of Khanthabouri District, and the other is in Sepone District, the Bing Tri Thien--Savannakhet Friendship hospital. There were 138,850 people who received disease prevention injections; 12,439 people had blood tests for malaria and malaria was found in 4,961 people; 4,215 people heard health propaganda for disease prevention; 2 districts, 35 cantons, 374 villages, and 9,002 houses were sprayed with DDT. [Excerpts] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 4 Feb 83 p 3] 9884

SALMONELLA OUTBREAK--To all districts around Vientiane Capital: Based on the research and findings on salmonella that are now occurring, the Vientiane Capital specialized task service has found it in a number of fish caught by fishermen in Houai Nam Chiam near Na Bong Agricultural College or the [milkbred cattle] raising station on the Na Bong plains, Saithani District area. Fish with salmonella have scales peeling off around their neck. In some fish the peeling occurs around the sides. There are red spots like pimples on the body. The specialized task service has confirmed that the fish with those symptoms have typhoid salmonella. It is a poisonous disease and is harmful to consumers. Thus, we make this urgent announcement to all districts and to inform the people. Vientiane, 17 February 1983, Vientiane Capital Administrative Committee, Chairman Phao Phimphachan. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 21 Feb 83 pp 1, 4] [Circular Concerning Salmonella Outbreak, Issued by Vientiane Administrative Committee Chairman Phao Phimphachan on 17 February 1983] 9884

CSO: 5400/4381

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

JARAWAK CHOLERA CASES--In Sarawak, two more cases of cholera were reported today bringing the total number so far this year to eight, including one death in the state. The victims were a 45-year-old woman from Rumah Tandan, Sungai Seremban, Bintulu, and a 3-year-old girl from (Serjung) in the same district. They have been admitted to the Bintulu Hospital. The total number of carriers so far this year remains at 19. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Mar 83 BK]

CSO: 5400/4399

BRIEFS

CHOLERA REPORTEDLY UNDER CONTROL--The cholera situation is totally under control both in the province and the city of Maputo, Dr Oscar Monteiro, head of the Prevention and Medical Examination Center of the city of Maputo, and Margarida Matsinhe, official for preventative medicine for the province of Maputo, assured our staff yesterday. The districts of Magude, Moamba, Manhica and Marracuene are in a state of alert but there have been great improvements. In these districts, sporadic cases are appearing. At Bela Vista, the seat of the Matutuine district, some cases have been reported this week. In Boane, the situation is now improving. Since the outbreak began, an average of 20 people were admitted to the infirmary a day with cholera symptoms and were designated suspected cases. Of this number only 40 percent actually had cholera. Cholera cases in the Boane district werenoted around the district seat and as one entered the district but especially at Matola-Rio. All cases were admitted to the infirmary. In the Namaacha district, three isolated, single cases were noted as of 25 February 1983. According to that source, these cases came from outside the district because of the movement of many people from other places. The same thing is true of the Marracuene district. The last case was reported about 1 month ago. Until then, only four isolated, single cases had been reported. "We can consider this district free of cholera," stated Margarida Matsinhe. In the Moamba district, single cases are being reported although the outbreak is continuing. In the Manhica district, the 27 cases reported were from outside the district also because many people pass through there. In the districts of Magude, Moamba and the settlement of Xinavane in the Manhica district, vaccinations are being given since cholera cases were detected. At present, health teams are vaccinating in Boane and Manhica. There is still cholera in the city at Maputo. Scattered cases continue to appear throughout the city of Maputo in the urban, suburban and rural transition area, said Dr Oscar Monteiro. According to the information gathered, from 1 January 1983 until 25 February 1983, 733 people have been hospitalized in th- city of Maputo. Of this number, only 369 had cholera, confirmed by the laboratory. New, small cases have appeared recently in Catembe. However, this outbreak is being fought. [Excerpts] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 26 Feb 83 p 3] 9479

CSO: 5400/201

AIDS DISEASE REACHES NATION; TWO CASES REPORTED IN OSLO

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 18 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] Two male homosexuals are hospitalized in Oslo with the diagnosis AIDS, a life-threatening disease that primarily hits persons with frequent sexual contacts, narcotics addicts who use syringes, and homosexual men. We know little about the disease, but the percentage of mortality is about 80 in the United States, Helge Heistø, chief physician at Ullevål Hospital's blood bank, tells AFTENPOSTEN. The disease is transmitted by the body fluids, e.g. blood, and in sexual contact, and it hits the body's immune system in such a way that the most trivial infection can mean mortal danger.

The blood bank has sent out blanks on which homosexuals and persons who take narcotics by syringe are asked not to donate blood. The disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) was discovered in the United States 2 years ago in homosexual circles, but there are three categories that have been hit by the disease: Male homosexuals about 75 percent, drug addicts who use syringes, and prostitutes. The infection occurs in intimate contact.

"It is serious that the disease has come to Norway, and so the Blood Bank has taken strict precautions in regard to donation of blood," says chief physician Helge Heistø. "We do not know much about the disease except that it is dangerous and we have no possibility of curing it. The only thing we can do is treat the secondary infections. We have two immunity mechanisms, antibodies and cellular immunity. It is the latter system that is destroyed in AIDS patients. The cells no longer provide immunity in regard to fungal infections, viruses, and aberrant cells. It has been found that AIDS patients more readily get a specific type of tumor.

"The fact that homosexual men are most exposed, we may assume, is due to their widespread and frequent contacts and special life style," says Heistø.

Intensive work is going on in the Health Directorate to get under way with preventive measures, and it has been decided that AIDS shall be a disease for which reporting is obligatory. "Everybody that can be assumed to know anything about this disease is being drawn into the effort to decide what shall be done to combat AIDS. We will try to spread information about the disease, and we have asked the League of '48 to inform its members.

"It is important to have international cooperation, and we are in on the international net," Medical Counselor Egil Willumsen informs us.

Karen-Christine Friele, secretary general of the Norwegian League of 1948, tells AFTENPOSTEN that the league takes this disease deeply seriously, but that some statements by the health authorities have come out rather unfortunately.

"I am convinced that there is no ill will behind it," says Friele, "but it hits homosexuals unnecessarily hard. It also seems to me that the measures taken by the Blood Bank work rather clumsily--for who is there that goes to the Blood Bank and says that he or she is homosexual? Anyway, we have been in the picture ever since we first heard about that disease, and take the strictest line with our members. On our own initiative we sent out information about AIDS on 4 March in thousands of copies. We have also allocated a large amount for a nurse who will participate in the homosexual conference in the United States in May. We consider it obvious that we are in on combatting the disease, which by all indications is restricted to a small group among homosexual men, but homosexuals must not be stigmatized more than they already are. The disease also strikes heterosexuals," says Friele.

In Norway hemophiliacs who are dependent on frequent blood transfusions receive plasma from about six persons. That means that there is some supervision over who gives blood. In the United States hemophiliacs receive plasma from more blood donors, ca. 1,000 persons, a thing that increases the danger of infection.

8815

CSO: 5400/2526

SIND HEALTH MINISTER ON SALE, MANUFACTURE OF SUBSTANDARD DRUGS

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 p 7

[Text]

THE Sind Health Minister has asked the pharmaceutical industry to help in the campaign against the manufacture and sale of fake or substandard drugs which, according to him, has now assumed alarming proportions. The best way in which the industry can help to fight the problem is to stop manufacturing medicines which are fake or substandard, but since the profit motive is so powerful, one can hardly expect those units which do go in for such criminal activity to undergo a change of heart. What the industry as a whole can — and should — do is to create facilities for keeping a check on the activities of pharmaceutical companies. It will not be feasible to expect the ethical and above-board among the units to individually monitor the performance of the others. Collective action, however, can be useful and the powerful association formed by pharmaceutical manufacturers in the country can play an important role in this. It is true that the manufacture and sale of sub-

standard medicines, which reached its peak during the days of the 'generic scheme', is still serious enough to be worrying. In fact, it is bad enough to create a persistent suspicion in people's minds about the quality of medicines manufactured here. If the PPMA was to set up a body for the purpose of monitoring the quality of medicines, it will not only be a national service but, if seriously undertaken, will do much to restore confidence in the industry as a whole. Any such venture will no doubt be expensive but if all units contribute, the burden will certainly not be unbearable. It is to be hoped, however, that the idea is not turned into a publicity stunt to earn goodwill but is taken up seriously.

In the meantime Government facilities to detect and put a stop to the sale of substandard drugs must be strengthened, because even if the industry does decide to opt for a degree of self-discipline, Government overseeing cannot be done without. There are sev-

eral things wrong with the detection system as it exists at present but the most important is the fact that there are simply not enough drug inspectors, nor are there sufficient laboratory facilities to deal with medicine samples quickly. In addition, the cupidity of drug inspectors — some of them at least — may also be relevant, as the Minister said, to the alarming proportions that sale of fake medicines has assumed. Where Government action is concerned, one point to be kept in mind is that the manufacture and sale of substandard medicines should be dealt with severely. This is a very serious crime, at times amounting to the taking of human lives, and the imposition of a fine or a token prison sentence is not commensurate with the nature of the crime. Everyone who may have helped in the manufacture or sale of such medicines, knowing that they are substandard, should be given heavy sentences to deter others from this criminal practice.

CSO: 5400/4713

NUCLEAR MEDICINE CENTERS PLANNED FOR ALL MEDICAL COLLEGES

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Mar 83 p 10

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Mar 1: Dr. Nasiruddin Jomezai, Minister for Health and Social Welfare, informed the Majlis that nuclear medical centres will be established in all medical colleges of the country.

Speaking during the 'Question Hour' on Tuesday, he said all the provincial Governments have been asked to prepare plans in this connection.

He said six nuclear medical centres are already operating at Karachi, Jamshoro, Larkana, Multan, Lahore and Peshawar.

To a question asked by Mr. Ghulam Qadir Masoori Bugti, the Minister hoped that the Bolan Medical College project could be completed in a period of two-year. He said the original scheme of the project was approved in 1973 and it was to be completed within three years at its approved cost of Rs. 7.5 crore.

He said the work on the complex is in advance stage. The project could not be completed in time due to its revision from time to time.

Dr Jomezai further said that the expenditure incurred so far on Bolan Medical College project was Rs. 34.60 crore. The cost of the project was revised for the third time in 1981 which was Rs. 47.847 crore and it was yet un-approved, he added.

Grant-in-aid

In reply to a question, he stated that the Federal Government gave

Rs. 94,00,000 as grant-in-aid to the National Institute of Cardio-vascular during 1981-82 while the grant-in-aid to the institute was Rs. 4,11,900 in 1978-79.

He said it was in addition to the grants given to the Institute of Cardio-vascular Diseases from time to time. The purpose was to help the Institute to meet a part of its expenditure.

He further stated that it was the policy of the Government to have only two centres of excellence of the kind of National Institute of Cardio-vascular Diseases, Karachi, for heart patients, one to cover Baluchistan and Sind and the other National Institute of Heart Diseases, Rawalpindi, to cover NWFP and Punjab.

To a question from Dr. Abdul Khaliq, the Health Minister said that all the sera (plural of serum) and vaccines relating to anti-tetanus, anti-diphtheria, anti-rabbic and anti-snake are produced in the National Institute of Health, Islamabad.

It was supplied to all Government, semi-Government, civil and military medical organisation, hospitals as well as to the general practitioners in limited quantity on non-profit basis, he added.

He told a questioner that the Commission on Indigenous System of Medicines submitted its report to the Health Ministry in 1975. It was not published as it was only for official use, he added.

HAKIMS CALL UPON GOVERNMENT TO UTILIZE THEIR ORGANIZATION

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 p 7

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Feb 17: Hakims of Tehrike Tajdid-i-Tibb (registered), Pakistan have called upon the Government to patronise their organisation, which is working on the principle of "law of simple organs", so that (Qanoon-e-Mufrad Aza) so that medical facilities could be provided in the rural areas on the lines of "bare-foot doctors" of China.

They claimed that the new theory, though basically on the principles of old Tibb, is a revolutionary theory which is economical, cheap and provides 100 per cent cure to the patients.

Hakim Ghulam Rasool Bhutta, General Secretary, Hakim Mubark Ali and Hakim Chaudhry Dilawar Ali, while addressing a joint Press conference here yesterday evening claimed that the new theory, law of simple organs" (Qanoon-i-Mufrid Aza) provides cent per cent cure to all diseases. He said treatment is based on simple herbs and other items which are even found in our

kitchens.

The Hakims claimed the inventor of their system cured tuberculosis (T.B.) patients through normal herbs and that the system has been adopted by the Indian Government at official level adding that a special hospital for tuberculosis has been set up at Nandipur, India under the system.

They further claimed that the Indian Government has named a ward of the same hospital after the name of late Mr Dost Mohammad Sabir Multani, in recognition of his meritorious services.

It may be mentioned here that the theory was given by Dost Mohammad Sabir, a registered and qualified allopathic medical practitioner, and father of prominent writer and intellectual Mr Mansoor Qaiser.

It may also be added that a free medical camp is also being arranged monthly by these Hakims at Wah where the number of visitors is increasing day-by-day.—APP

CSO: 5400/4713

SHOORA HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS POLICIES

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 27: The Health Committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora met here on Saturday to discuss the health policy envisaged in the Sixth Five-Year Plan.

The Federal Minister for Health, Special Education and Social Welfare, Dr Nasiruddin Jogezi, presided over the meeting which lasted about three hours.

The Committee informed that the allocation for the Health sector in the Sixth Plan are being raised three times the present one in order to make available modern health facilities within four miles for every citizen.

The basic targets of the Sixth Plan also include reduction of crude death rate from fourteen per thousand to about ten per thousand, infant mortality rate from 105 per thousand births to 79 per thousand and to increase life

expectancy of men from 54 years to 60 years and that of women from 53 to 59 years.

Main thrust

The meeting agreed that the main thrust of all our efforts should be to promote preventive services instead of only curative ones through malaria and tuberculosis control programmes, immunization of vulnerable groups against diseases such as tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus and measles etc.

It was decided that more emphasis should be laid on health education and the concept of community mobilization and participation in the community health should be adopted as a policy.

The Committee consented that irrespective of the provision of a doctor in all the one thousand Basic

Health Units and the addition of doctors in the three hundred Rural Health Centres in the country, the objectives of the health policy should be to provide a balanced package of preventive, promotive and curative services.

The Committee includes Dr. Sultan Ahmed Cheema, Syed Nusrat Ali Shah, Begum Maulvi Mohammad Faizan, Begum Nuzhat Sadiq, Dr Badr Siddiqi, Dr Ammena Ashraf, Begum Ghamar Ispahani, Dr Mohammad Yunus and Dr Obaidullah Durrani.

The meeting was participated among others by the Federal Health Secretary, Mr A. Samee Qureshi, Acting Director General Health, Brig (Retd) Khizar Hayat Khan and Executive Director of the National Institute of Health, Maj Gen M.I. Burney.—PPI

CSO: 5400/4716

BRIEFS

MINISTRY DENIES EPIDEMIC REPORTS--The Ministry for Northern Area and Kashmir Affairs in a press note has described as highly exaggerated the reports published in certain sections of the press which said that during last 1 and 1/2 months a large number of people have died of an epidemic or some unknown disease in the Nellum Valley of Azad Kashmir. The press note said that only eight or nine persons have died of pneumonia in the Nellum Valley. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Mar 83 BK]

ITALY TO AID TB CONTROL--Islamabad, March 27--An agreement providing for the Italian assistance to control tuberculosis, particularly in the Afghan Refugee Camps was signed here tonight by the Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and the Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. It has been agreed that under its aid programme Italy will provide medical personnel, mobile X-ray units, ambulances and other equipment as part of a project to assist in the control of tuberculosis. The signing ceremony was followed by a return dinner hosted by the Italian Foreign Minister in honour of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 28 Mar 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/4716

REPORT ON PUBLIC HEALTH, EPIDEMIC PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Conference Convened

Chengdu SICHUAN RIBAO in Chinese 4 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] The Provincial Department of Public Health most recently called a Provincewide Public Health and Epidemic Prevention Work Conference. On the basis of summarizing and exchanging experiences, studies on ways to implement the primary goal of prevention to strengthen the neglected field of public health and epidemic prevention, and to create a new situation were stressed. The conference also made arrangement for this year's tasks of public health and epidemic prevention. Leaders of the provincial government came and delivered speeches.

'SICHUAN RIBAO' Commentary

Chengdu SICHUAN RIBAO in Chinese 4 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] Preventive medicine is a rapidly growing new science. In recent years, the work of public health and epidemic prevention in Sichuan Province has stressed preventive medicine as the primary effort and very large accomplishments have been obtained. The field of public health and epidemic prevention had, however, been a neglected field for many years. The foundation was poor, the manpower weak, the buildings crowded, the equipment old, the mainstay technicians few, the epidemic prevention budget deficient. The effectiveness of the action of public health and epidemic prevention agencies have thus been affected.

Public health epidemic prevention is the important content of the entire public health field and is inseparable from it. Disease prevention and sanitation are the basic condition for material and cultural construction of socialism and are also the constituent elements of socialist spiritual civilization. It is several times less expensive to prevent an individual from becoming sick than to cure a patient. It may even be several tens of times cheaper. If the social wealth created by a worker who has been protected from becoming ill is taken into consideration, the economic benefit of preventive medicine is even more difficult to estimate. Yet, epidemic prevention work is often neglected by people. The phenomenon of stressing treatment and neglecting prevention is rather common. At present,

implementation of the spirit of the 12th Congress is the precept on all battlefronts. Under the new situation of all-out socialist modernization construction, it has become the task of all the party and all the people to strengthen this neglected battlefront of sanitation and epidemic prevention in the province, to work diligently toward raising the health standard of the people. All local public health administrations must include the epidemic prevention work in their daily agenda, provide manpower, material, financial, and organizational support, do a good job of construction and management of sanitation and epidemic prevention agencies so that the public health and epidemic prevention agencies of all ranks can fully exercise their function of technical guidance and health surveillance to start a new phase of public health and epidemic prevention work in the province.

6248

CS0: 5400/4129

DIARRHEA EPIDEMIC OCCURS; PREVENTION STEPS NOTED

Lanzhou GANSU RIBAO in Chinese 1 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Ma Lan [7356 3482]]

[Text] Most recently, cases of diarrhea of unknown cause have been discovered in the region of Honggu and Baiyin of Lanzhou City. The disease has to some extent affected the health and production of the masses. Therefore, the reporter interviewed those in charge of related departments concerning this matter.

He was told that this is a sudden diarrhea of unknown cause. It starts as an acute disease and is very severe. It spreads fast to involve a large area and the incidence is high. Clinical manifestations include mainly diarrhea and abdominal pain, accompanied by nausea and vomiting. The stool is yellow-colored and watery. The body temperature and blood pressure are generally normal. Treatment with antibiotics is not effective but the effect of fluid infusion is obvious.

To control the occurrence and spreading of this disease, it is suggested that preventive work be done to cut off methods of spreading. Protection of the water source should be strengthened, a good job of purifying the drinking water be carried out, strengthen the management of night soil, and disinfect the vomit of the sick with bleach or potassium permanganate before disposal. Each patient should be assigned his own tableware and utensils and they should be disinfected after use. In the collective dining hall and child-care centers, tableware disinfection should be strictly carried out. Individual hygiene should be stressed and everyone should take care not to catch a cold. Hands should always be washed before eating and after going to the bathroom. Raw garlic and raw ginger tea should be partaken frequently and purslane [*Portulaca oleracea* L.] decoction should be administered once a day. All the above have a definite preventive effect. In areas of epidemic, as much as possible, visits of friends and relatives should be curtailed; this is also a very important measure of preventing the disease from spreading.

6248

CSO: 5400/4129

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF PATRIOTIC HEALTH WORK PLANS TASKS

Chengdu SICHUAN RIBAO in Chinese 15 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Luo Weiyun [5012 4850 0061]]

[Text] In order to implement requests issued by such units as the CPC Department of Propaganda, etc., to solicit opinions concerning activities on health, beautification, etc., and to ask all localities to develop the patriotic public health movement in greater breadth and depth in order to make new contributions to spiritual civilization, the Provincial Patriotic Public Health Movement Committee recently called a provincewide work conference.

Since last year, especially since the party's 12th Congress, Sichuan Province has produced good results in public health work, in a manner rare in the past 20 years. The appearance of major cities and towns has been obviously improved and cadres and masses have been so aroused in the matter of public health that a change in social practices has occurred and a large number of public health advanced models have emerged.

Concrete tasks for this year, to create a new phase in public health, were proposed at the conference. Cities and towns of the province, especially large and medium cities such as Chengdu and Chongqing, localities of prefecture administrative agencies, and areas of tourism of the entire province should accomplish the following: Within the city limits there should be no trash accumulation, no stagnant water in the ditches, no muddy sludge. All dirty, mucky, and smelly public latrines should be reconstructed and the night soil removed in a timely manner. All standing public health problems should be thoroughly resolved; the number of pests should be greatly reduced. Public health surveillance and management should be strengthened and food and beverage sanitation should be carried out well. All rural villages of the province should continue to emphasize cleaning up what is dirty, strengthening public health management of markets of agricultural trade, and proceeding with public health basic construction for managing night soil and animal manure, and changing the "five practices." During the All People Civilization Month Movement of March, all localities should carry out activities for large-scale clean up, purposefully and in a planned manner, to establish various public health systems and to construct public health facilities to clean, beautify, and afforest the environment.

The conference expects the local departments of urban construction, industry and commerce, agriculture, and water conservancy to strengthen their leadership still further, to divide up the work and responsibility, and to coordinate with one another closely so as to perform the patriotic public health work together to produce effective results.

Deputy Governor He Haoju [0149 6787 3515] and Liu Haiquan [0491 3189 2164] came to the conference to deliver speeches and to award cups and certificates to Chengdu, Neijiang, Nanchong, and Xichang cities, winners of the province's patriotic public health circulating cups, and representatives of 224 public health advanced units.

6248

CSO: 5400/4129

LI DESHENG ON PREVENTION OF ENDEMIC DISEASES

OWO90453 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1450 GMT 6 Apr 83

[By reporter Wang Ke]

[Text] Shenyang, 6 Apr (XINHUA) -- Today, at the meeting of the directors of the leading groups for prevention and treatment of local endemic diseases in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, Li Desheng, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the leading group for prevention and treatment of local endemic disease under the CPC Central Committee, emphatically pointed out: In order to create a new situation in doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases, it is necessary to do away with the influence of "leftist" thinking and remove the ideological obstacles in creating the new situation.

Li Desheng pointed out: In the past 2 years, we have scored fresh achievements and made new progress in the prevention and treatment of local endemic diseases. The party committees and people's governments at all levels have further strengthened their leadership over this work. The comrades working for the various offices for the prevention and treatment of local endemic diseases at all levels have played their roles as advisors and assistants in promoting this work even better. Contingents of professional workers have been strengthened, and new progress has been made in developing scientific research work. A total of 17 scientific research achievements have won top prizes.

Li Desheng said: Since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, each of us has done some work and scored some achievements in eradicating the influence of the "leftist" thinking. However, we must soberly realize that "leftist" errors have a long history in our party. Their influences are deep and harmful. The influence of "leftist" thinking over all types of work has not been completely eradicated by the guiding ideologies. Li Desheng hoped that in close connection with the actual conditions in the prevention and treatment of local endemic diseases, the leading comrades and functionaries doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases would review the past records, analyze the current situation and carry out their work in this respect earnestly, systematically and in an all-round manner. He pointed out: Efforts must be made to further overcome the tendency of demanding uniformity in doing all types of work and the phenomenon of egalitarianism with "everyone sharing food from the same big pot," and to combat any prejudice against intellectuals in order to develop the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases healthily and along a correct path.

At the meeting, Li Desheng said: To create a new situation in doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases, it is essential to implement the policy of making reforms and grasp the key links in creating the new situation. He said: Comrade Deng Xiaoping pointed out that to develop the four modernizations program we must carry out a series of reforms and that without the reforms it will be impossible to realize the four modernizations.

The comrades in charge of the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases must emancipate their thoughts; be courageous in exploring ways and means; boldly carry out reforms; and work out the guiding ideologies, work methods, rules, regulations and technical measures to keep pace with the changing situation. In doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases, what kind of reforms should be specifically make? How can we make such reforms? We may discuss and study these questions. However, one thing is clear: There must be specific organs and individuals assigned to do the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases.

In his speech, Li Desheng emphasized the significance in improving leadership methods and work styles. He said: Recently, a leading comrade at the central level pointed out: What does creating a new situation mean? It means to go deep into the realities of life, conduct investigations and study, find out new problems, solve new contradictions and offer suggestions to carry out reforms. Only by doing so will it be possible to create a new situation. In this respect, the leading comrades in some provinces have done a good job. Last year alone, more than 30 leading comrades from various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions such as Shaanxi, Heilongjiang, Nei Monggol, Shanxi, Xinjiang, Beijing, Shandong, Henan, Gansu, Jilin, Hebei, Qinghai and Guizhou went deep into the disease-stricken areas to visit patients, understand the situation and help solve many real problems. We must vigorously promote such practices. He pointed out: The party committees at all levels should strengthen their leadership in doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases and list their work in our daily agenda as a major event in raising the people's health standards and invigorating the Chinese nation. Otherwise, we will once again commit the same error as we did in the past like ignoring planned parenthood in the 1950's.

Li Desheng said: The leading groups in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have made readjustments in an overall manner, and there have been some personnel changes among the members of the leading groups for the prevention and treatment of local endemic diseases. In order to maintain this work's continuity, it is necessary to assign people to take charge of this work as soon as possible. The comrades assigned to take charge of this work must familiarize themselves with the local situation, go to areas heavily stricken with local endemic diseases, pay attention to production as well as to the prevention and treatment of these diseases, guide the masses in these areas extricate themselves from the diseases and poverty and take the bright road towards good health and prosperity. In conclusion, Li Desheng also said: After the implementation of the production responsibility systems in rural areas, some new problems have also appeared in doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases. By conducting investigation and study, we must carry out experiments at selected points and explore and find a realistic plan to further improve the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases.

CSO: 5400/4134

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

HEPATITIS B VACCINE PRODUCTION--Beijing, 2 Apr (XINHUA)--A laboratory affiliated with the Beijing Medical College has produced a hepatitis B vaccine after 7 years of effort. A group of scientists, led by Professor Tao Qimin, have carried out experiments involving 5,000 people in Beijing, Jiangsu and Guangxi to ascertain the immunization effect. This research which provides a strong defense against hepatitis B has won Beijing Municipality science prize, first class. [Text] [Beijing XINHUA in English 0748 GMT 2 Apr 83 OW]

CSO: 5400/4133

DISEASE DEATHS REPORTED FROM SOUTH

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by Vic Arevalo]

[Text] Zamboanga City, March 2--Regional health authorities are verifying a report that 78 people, most of them children, died from the outbreak of measles, malaria, and dysentery in barangays Litangan and Lingayan, Malayal municipality, Zamboanga del Norte.

The Zamboanga Metro-district command received before noon today a flash radio report from P/Maj. Jesus Mabalot, station commander based in Ayala in the west coast.

He relayed a report received from the Laboan police station saying that Civilian Home Defense Force commander Melanio Limposon, of Lingayan, reported that 78 persons in the two barangays died of the three ailments.

The outbreak of measles in the two areas was earlier reported by barangay officials to the 24th brigade headquarters of the Army 4th Infantry division in this city. The report to the Army disclosed that of the 18 measles patients, five were confirmed dead.

Lt. Col. Servando Lara, brigade commander, said that unless government health authorities act in haste, the diseases would assume epidemic proportions.

Health regional director Hilarion Ramiro, Jr. said a team from the Siocon Emergency Hospital in Zamboanga del Norte led by Dr. Victoriano Gler, was dispatched to Litangan and Lingayan, in coordination with the Army medical group.

CSO: 5400/4380

BRIEFS

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN--The Ministry of Health on Monday launched a Rubella Immunization campaign for schools. The first phase of the programme, covered schools in the Boguis, La Guerre and Des Barras areas and moved on to schools in the Morne-Du-Don, Bocage, Ti Rocher and Forestiere areas yesterday. Under the programme, girls between the ages of 10-12 will be immunized for the first time against the disease, which is also known as German Measles. This will be a continuous programme, and girls not yet of age during the first phase of the programme will later become eligible for immunization upon reaching the age of 10. The programme is being supervised by the Ministry's Health Education Unit, and will initially cover an area stretching from Gros-Islet in the North to Dennery on the East coast and Anse-La-Raye on the West Coast. Rubella affects pregnant women, and is known to cause deformities in the new-born. A similar immunization campaign is scheduled to take place in the South of the Island later in the year.

[Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 9 Feb 83 p 4]

CSO: 5400/7560

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DEATHS IN NATAL--Durban.--Three people have died from cholera in Natal in the last week: a 58-year old Black man from the Vryheid district, a 49-year old Black man from the Paulpietersburg district, and an Indian man, no age given, from Darnall on the north coast. A spokesman for the State Health Department said that there was a slight increase in the number of cases in Natal last week but the situation had improved slightly in KwaZulu. There were 498 unconfirmed cases in KwaZulu and 330 unconfirmed cases in Natal. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 5 Mar 83 p 13]

CSO: 5400/180

BRIEFS

COCONUT INFUSION CHOLERA TREATMENT--Dar es Salaam--The Ministry of Health said it is not aware that coconut infusion */(maji ya madafu)/* [in italics] was being used to treat cholera cases at a medical centre in Rukwa Region. Commenting on reports that for two years coconut infusion had been used at Kirando Medical Centre in Nkansi, the Director for Hospital Services Ndugu W. K. Ntuyabaliwe, said he was not informed on the issue. However, he said in absence of hospital infusions and during war time, coconut and bamboo infusion could be used to treat patients after analysing its contents. A medical officer at Kirando, Ndugu Nicholas Maambali, told SHIHATA last month that a team of health officers headed by a Rural Medical Aid, Ndugu Michael Mbwire had successfully treated cholera patients with coconut infusion for lack of hospital infusion at the medical centre. He did not however specify the number of patients treated with the coconut juice. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 3 Mar 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/188

MALARIA OUTBREAK AT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NDOLA 'UNDER CONTROL'

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 26 Mar 83 p 5

[Text]

CHIWALA Secondary School in Ndola has been hit by an outbreak of malaria and 15 students have been admitted at Ndola Central Hospital.

The 15 students were among 200 others who were rushed to the hospital on Thursday with suspected cerebral malaria.

Hospital senior medical superintendent Dr Frank Assanah yesterday confirmed the admission of the students but described their condition as satisfactory.

The students were taken to the hospital in turns starting from 14 hours on Thursday up to Friday midnight.

Dr Assanah said 200 students were attended to and 15 of them were admitted and were now under observation.

However, Dr Assanah said the malaria outbreak was not an epidemic because it was usual at this time of the year

to have many cases of malaria.

He said those admitted were responding well to treatment and would be discharged within a few days.

"We gave medicine to the ones who were not in serious condition but we had to detain some of them for observation," Dr Assanah said.

An education spokesman who was speaking on behalf of the chief education officer Mr Andrew Kaunda said "the illness has been reported to us and I personally went to the school after getting a report from there".

The spokesman assured parents that the situation was under control and there was no need to panic.

Some of the students are expected to be discharged today.

CSO: 5400/212

MUFULIRA MALNUTRITION, DIARRHEA DEATHS; PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

A TOTAL of 857 children died in Mufulira from malnutrition and diarrhoea during the 1981/82 period.

According to statistics from the district health management team, 117 children died from under-nourishment out of 185 cases reported and 74 deaths out of 1,945 diarrhoea cases.

Secretary of the district health management team, Mr Ezron Musonda, who is the council's chief health inspector, said a vigorous health education campaign had been launched to eradicate the killer diseases.

The district management team was established to deal specifically with malnutrition cases, cholera, diarrhoea and other communicable diseases among the residents.

Mr Musonda said the team was given priority to malnutrition because of the high mortality rate particularly in the peri-urban areas.

Although the death rate on diarrhoea was low it could be much higher because data was still being collected from various health centres.

Mr Musonda said 26 community health workers had been trained and assigned to various townships to carry out health education among the residents.

More community health workers would be trained to ensure that the 1983/85 health programme was successful.

Besides training staff, a mass immunisation programme will start in July to ensure that all infants are vaccinated against communicable diseases.

Mr Musonda said the decentralisation of local government administration was paying off in that the council health department and Government health institutions now coordinated their work.

CSO: 5400/210

NDOLA TDRC TESTS SUCCESSFULLY 'SAFE, POTENT' BILHARZIA DRUG

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 26 Feb 83 p 1

[Excerpt]

NDOLA's Tropical Diseases Research Centre [TDRC] has successfully tested a very safe and potent bilharzia drug — Praziquant — whose single dose is enough to cure a patient.

The drug which has been developed in collaboration with the World Health Organisation [WHO] has minimal side effects and very effective in contrast to similar bilharzia drugs currently in use.

The TDRC Director, Dr Everiste Njelesani disclosed this in Ndola yesterday when he reviewed the progress of

the centre's research activities since the government took over from the WHO in 1981.

Dr Njelesani said Bilharzia tests were being carried out in Kampumbu in the Isoka district where 60 per cent of the population of about 1,800 had the disease — mainly bilharzia of liver and bowel.

This had however, been reduced to about eight per cent following mass treatment in 1981 and 1982.

But Dr Njelesani pointed out that the centre was still evaluating the tests.

CSO: 5400/189

VIETNAM

DIRECTIVE ISSUED ON ERADICATION OF MALARIA

OW051143 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] On 25 March, the chairman of the Council of Ministers issued directive No 80-CT on strengthening the work of eradicating malaria in the coming year. After pointing to the results obtained and the main reason seriously affecting the eradication of malaria over the past few years, the directive set out new tasks in the eradication of malaria in the coming years. These tasks are:

To strive, from now until 1990, to complete the offensive for the basic eradication of malaria.

To strive to reduce, by late 1985, the rate of malaria-carrying parasitic insects to 3 per 10,000 in northern provinces and 20 per 10,000 in the south, and to attain, by late 1990, the rate of 1 per 10,000 in the north and 5 per 10,000 in the south.

The people's committees of various provinces, cities and special zones directly subordinate to the central government must sum up and review their guidance for the eradication of malaria in their areas, map out plans for eradicating malaria during the 1983-1985 3-year period and set out objectives to be achieved by late 1990.

Provinces heavily hit by malaria, such as those in the central highlands, former Nam Bo and the Vietnam-China and Vietnam-Lao borders, should concentrate their forces, means and medicine on rapidly lowering the rate of malaria patients. In provinces and cities, a number of chairmen of people's committees should take charge of the eradication of malaria and mobilize various sectors, organizations and armed forces units of the region and of the central government stationed in their areas to actively participate in this work.

At the district level, we must consolidate antimalaria or mobile health teams with enough manpower and means to ensure the eradication of malaria. Each village should have at least one health cadre trained in malaria to follow, control, discover and treat malaria. The regional people's committees and sectors concerned should assure requirements in expenses and technical supplies for malaria eradication and provide enough food to special and semispecial technical teams engaged in spraying mosquito-killing chemicals and treating patients.

The health, defense and interior ministers, the State Planning Commission and the finance, food, communications and transportation, and home trade ministries should formulate plans to coordinate the supply of medicine, chemicals, special instruments, expenses, manpower, material supplies and food, to transport mosquito-killing chemicals for malaria eradication and to give priority to supply mosquito-nets to areas heavily affected by malaria.

CSO: 5400/4400

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

FOOT-MOUTH, TICK ALERT--CANBERRA--Animal quarantine authorities in all states have been placed on alert following the discovery of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Denmark. The acting Federal Health Minister, Senator Baume, said Australian quarantine authorities had been advised officially of the outbreak on the island of Funen, between Zealand and Jutaland. Senator Baume said passengers arriving in Australia from Denmark would be subject until further notice to routine procedures which applied to travellers from countries infected with or at risk from the disease. Products from Denmark capable of carrying infection such as cheese and other dairy productions would be placed in quarantine and held until further notice. Senator Baume said Australian authorities were seeking full clarification of the situation in Denmark. In Sydney the New South Wales Public Service Association yesterday predicted a spread of cattle ticks, animal diseases, weeds and other pests throughout the state following a rundown in State Government control measures. Large areas of NSW were suitable climatically for the establishment of tick infestations, with heavy tick populations found in past years as far south as Kempsey. [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 19 Jan 83 p 10]

CSO: 5400/7556

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK--There is an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in El Patia Valley. A vaccination center has been set up in Popayan and extreme measures are being taken to prevent the disease from spreading to other areas. [Text] [Bogota El Siglo in Spanish 1 Mar 83 PA]

CSO: 5400/ 2069

RINDERPEST REAPPEARS IN BANI SUWAYF PROVINCE

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Mar 83 p 7

/Article by Buthayna Zakariya: "Because of the Appearance of Rinderpest for the Second Time Within a Year the Governorate Appeals to the Ministry of Agriculture for More Vaccines."/

/Text/ The Bani Suwayf governorate declared a state of emergency after Rinderpest has broken out for the second time within a year. Because the disease has caused 200 head of cattle to die and has affected 150 head more, Dr. Mahmud Kamal al-Rays has ordered that a daily report on the situation be made. He further made urgent calls to Dr. Yusuf Wali, Minister of Agriculture, to obtain more of the vaccines required to combat the danger.

In light of these events the governorate's local assembly convened an emergency meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad ^CAbd al-Mun'im to hear a report presented by Dr. Sa'id al-Qadi, director of veterinary medicine in the province. It stated that the Rinderpest had appeared once again in some of the province's villages in its contagious strain. He said there were many cases where the animals have been killed and the final numbers of the afflicted animals had not yet been reached in the province's villages.

At this point the counsellor Sa'id Bahnasawi, secretary general of the Nationalist Party in the province interrupted to assert that the pestilence had caused between three and five heads of cattle to die in every one of the villages of the province. Atif Qanawi followed him by saying that in spite of this situation the veterinary services of the governorate have been unable to obtain more of the needed vaccines. He requested that they be provided rapidly from the Ministry of Agriculture, along with the immediate allocation of funds needed to combat this dread danger, lest the same happen here as did in Fayyum province.

The director of veterinary medicine followed by saying that sufficient preventive measures have already been taken to combat the danger. Already nearly 250 thousand head have been inoculated and likewise the livestock markets in the afflicted areas have been closed. There was a threat that it could be brought in from outside the governorate so the contagion would appear in all of the provincial centers, especially in the centers of Nasir, Bani Suwayf, Iknasya, or Biba.

The director of veterinary services concluded by saying that the governorate will face difficiencies in the amount of vaccine it has because of its lack of reserve stocks. He said: "We dispense vaccine every day. A beast needs what amounts to 15 Egyptian pounds worth of treatment. The serum cures the side symptoms, but it does not cure the virus."

Lastly, Dr. Muhammad Kamal al-Rays, the governor, requested that the veterinary services follow the situation and present a daily report about it, along with a detailed enumeration of the afflicted areas.

9587

CSO: 5400/4606

GUATEMALA

HEALTH AGENCY MONITORING RABIES SITUATION

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Mar 83 p 22

[Article by Edgar Octavio Giron Castillo]

[Text] San Pedro Sacatepequez, San Marcos--In order to prevent a rabies epidemic from spreading among cattle, and the possibility of contagion in humans, the DIGESEPE [General Directorate of Livestock Services] has undertaken the inspection of livestock and the health center, a check of persons, in the small village of Sacuchum Dolores, on the coastal border of the department

The above was reported by the mayor of San Pedro, Professor Oscar Emiro Barrios Garcia, who said that the town was very worried over the phenomenon that was taking place near the coast, 20 kilometers from this capital.

Professor Barrios Garcia said that first of all the town government granted 200 quetzals for a delegation to travel this past Thursday to obtain 100 doses of anti-rabies vaccine and it was expected that by yesterday afternoon cattle that might be infected with rabies would start to be inoculated.

"It has been confirmed that it is a question of rabies," he said. "We sent the head of one of the dead cattle to the capital for analysis. The zootechnical analysis resulted in a determination of positive rabies."

"It is feared," he said, "that the epidemic might spread to cattle in other places. We do not expect that this will happen, because we are taking all of the quarantine and preventive precautions that the situation warrants."

With respect to possible contagion in humans, he said that it was very likely, since many persons have drunk the milk of sick cows and have also eaten cheese and cream made from the milk of sick cows. However, he added, these cases could occur in persons who suffer from gastritis or other chronic stomach trouble.

In conclusion he said that Dr Jorge Mario Ligorria, director of DIGESEPE, is in charge of animal control and that Dr Alfredo Pedroza, who heads the health center, is in charge of checking the population.

8255

CSO: 5400/2064

CATTLE RINDERPEST ERADICATION PROGRAM TO START NEXT YEAR

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 4 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Musa Lupatu]

[Text]

A PROGRAMME to eradicate rinderpest on cattle in Africa begins early next year and it will entail vaccinating all cattle annually for a period of not less than six years, it has been learnt.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Livestock Development said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the programme had been prepared by the International Bureau of Animal Health (IBAH) in conjunction with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

IBAH is an affiliate of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

According to the spokesman, the success of the programme whose entire cost would be borne by the project, would depend on a guarantee by participating countries that they would continue the vaccinations for at least three to four years after the project term had expired.

Foreign donor countries would make available equipments, medicines and transport to the IBAH/FAO, and participating countries would

meet the local costs like salaries to employees and fringes for the preservation of the vaccines, the spokesman said.

He said a three-man OAU/FAO team left Dar es Salaam last Wednesday after it had delivered a message to the government on how the emergence campaign against the animal killer disease would be run. Details on the campaign were not immediately known.

The last case of rinderpest in cattle in Tanzania occurred in 1965, and the country was regarded rinderpest-free for over 15 years. The spokesman, however, said that the disease had resurfaced and had been confirmed serologically in buffaloes in April last year in Serengeti and last June and November in Ngorongoro and in Shambarai Division, Kiteto District, Arusha, respectively.

Other countries in Africa where the disease had been confirmed include Somali, Sudan, Ethiopia, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta and Nigeria, the spokesman said.

Rinderpest is a viral contagious disease that had been contained for sometime in a number of countries, and its re-surfacing, was because of failure to maintain vaccinations, the spokesman said.

This would be the second campaign to be organised by the OAU/IBAH. The previous campaign was organised in the 60's and was named GP 15 campaign, the official said.

He said the re-surfacing of the disease in Tanzania had claimed over 1,000 head of buffaloes in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in June last year.

According to the spokesman, one million doses of vaccine from the national veterinary institute of Debrezeit, Ethiopia, was received in the country last September, and by end of November last year about one million head of cattle was vaccinated in the normal vaccination areas plus a few more districts which border the Kenya and Tanzania border.

VIETNAM

CATTLE, HOGS KILLED BY 'SERIOUS' EPIDEMIC IN THANH HOA PROVINCE

BK021425 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Thanh Hoa Province is faced with serious animal epidemics. From late January to 20 March 40,000 cattle were infected by trypanosomiasis and 2,958 of them were killed by the disease, while more than 61,000 of hogs were killed by pasteurellosis. The epidemic first appeared at Nong Cong District and afterward expanded to 13 districts and towns of Thanh Hoa. It is now spreading to other areas.

To cope with this situation, the Council of Ministers recently sent a message to the Ministry of Agriculture and people's committees of Thanh Hoa, Nghe Tinh, Binh Tri Thien, Ha Nam Ninh, Thai Binh and Ha Son Binh provinces to request them to scrupulously implement the following urgent measures:

The Ministry of Agriculture must supply sufficient medicine and veterinary equipment and assign veterinarians to Thanh Hoa to promptly eliminate the epidemic.

The people's committee of Thanh Hoa must strengthen its antiepidemic tasks and establish antiepidemic committees to be chaired by chairmen and vice chairmen of the local people's committees. The sectors concerned will participate in these committees. The province must assign provincial and district cadres to infectious areas to vaccinate cattle and lead the people to eliminate the epidemic. The province must also scrupulously implement the law on sanitation and prevention of epidemics, especially regulations on prohibiting cattle slaughter and transporting cattle into areas infected by the epidemic. Dead cattle must be buried deeply to prevent bacteria from spreading.

Adjacent provinces to Thanh Hoa must take measures to prevent the epidemic. They must supervise the people to promptly discover the infectious cattle in order to promptly eliminate the epidemic at its nascent stage.

CSO: 5400/4400

BRIEFS

BEITBRIDGE CATTLE SALES--Gwanda. Cattle sales in the Beitbridge district, which were stopped early in February following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease on one of the Lemco ranches, will be resumed on April 26, the Assistant Provincial Veterinary Officer for Matabeleland South, Dr Denis Lampard, said here yesterday. Dr Lampard said since the outbreak of the disease, reported at the end of January, the veterinary department had worked "flatout, to ensure that the disease did not spread to other areas. In the control exercise 121 687 head of cattle had been vaccinated on commercial farms and communal lands around West Nicholson while another 100 000 were vaccinated in Mwenezi district. Dr Lampard said some of the vaccines were sent to Masvingo where vaccinations on the eastern outskirts of Mwenezi district were being carried out. Between 50 and 60 buffaloes were reported to have been sighted on one of the Lemco ranches and precautions were taken to stop the disease from spreading to surrounding commercial farms and communal lands. The Government has spent more than \$210 600 on vaccines in the campaign.--Ziana. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 12 Mar 83 p 5]

CSO: 5400/208

BRIEFS

PEST CONTROL PROGRAM--The Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados has said it wants its extension officers fully equipped for integrated pest management which is seen as the key to future agricultural pest control. The announcement by the Ministry came after yesterday's start to the first of a number of half-day seminars on integrated pest management at its Graeme Hall, Christ Church office. It was opened by Chief Agricultural Officer Dr. Lionel Smith. Some 24 extension officers and agriculturalists are attending the seminars which continues tomorrow, March 14, 17, 21 and 24. At the seminars participants will be taught how to use a variety of techniques to control pests, and to coordinate their use to the best possible advantage. "The idea is to avoid excessive dependence on chemical pesticides and reduce the likelihood of damaging the environment", a Ministry statement pointed out. The statement said too that integrated pest management was the most advanced system of controlling the natural enemies of man's agricultural crops. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Mar 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/7561

BRIEFS

BANANA SCARRING BEETLE--A banana peel scarring beetle has been reported for the first time in one area at the Woodford Hill Estate and one area in the Mango Gutter in Dominica. The beetle was identified as *Lachnopus* species. Identification of *Lachnopus* sp. was confirmed by the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology in the United Kingdom. According to WINBAN's Crop Protection Officer, Everton Ambrose, investigations revealed that the adults feed on the young fruit from about one week after shooting causing scars which render the fruit unsaleable. In addition, beetles were found feeding on bracts, both those on the bunch and those which had fallen to the ground. In addition, a survey of major banana-growing showed that the beetle was present only in two areas. In both areas bananas are intercropped with mangoes and citrus. Beetles were also found on the mango plants and there was considerable damage to the margins of the mango leaves. In the two areas examined in Dominica no eggs were seen on the banana or mango plants but adult beetles were found 30-45 cm beneath the soil surface. The damage caused by the banana fruit-scarring beetle, *Lachnopus*, was confirmed in laboratory experiments conducted at WINBAN's Research Centre at Roseau in St. Lucia. [Excerpts] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 18 Feb 83 p 10]

CSO: 5400/7555

HUMAN INTERFERON CLAIMED CURE FOR TOBACCO MOSAIC VIRUS

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Jan 83 p 30

[Article by Rafael Gordon]

[Text]

Israeli scientists have discovered that human interferon can prevent the multiplication of viruses in plants. The researchers found that treatment with the anti-viral substance considerably reduced the multiplication of the mosaic virus in tobacco leaves. The interferon can be produced through the use of genetic engineering methods.

Taking part on the research team were Prof. Ilan Sela and his student, Ms. Patricia Orchansky, both of the virology laboratory at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, and Dr. Menahem Rubinstein of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

In earlier studies Prof. Sela had demonstrated that considerable similarity exists between the activity of interferon in human beings and the activity of the anti-viral factor (AVE) with which tobacco plants combat the mosaic virus. For her Master's thesis Ms. Orchansky examined various aspects of the activity of the two substances.

In the initial stage, the scientists sought to discover whether AVF has any effect

on a virus that causes stomach diseases in human beings; the results were negative. Pursuing their line of research, the scientists examined whether human interferon can affect viral diseases in plants; here the results were positive.

The team made use of interferon preparations from the US firm of Hoffmann-La Roche. Tobacco plants were infected with the tobacco virus mosaic. Once the virus had penetrated the cells, parts of the infected leaves were removed and placed in a solution containing interferon. Three days later it was found that the sections of the leaves which had been treated with interferon showed 90-95% less viral activity than the untreated sections. When these sections of the leaves were transferred to a solution without interferon, multiplication of the virus recommenced normally.

The findings of the study have been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in the US and have aroused interest in the international scientific community. ■

CSO: 5400/4513

PORTUGAL

BRIEFS

CATERPILLAR INVASION--Long carpets of "bicho-coiro," sometimes stretching out for kilometers, have destroyed truck gardens and pastures in the zone of Castro Verde. "Bicho-coiro" is the designation for a species of hairy caterpillar which measures about 4 centimeters in length. This is not the first invasion of this kind in the area, but the old farmers say it is the worst ever. The farmers did nothing to combat the pest, which always appears in periods of prolonged drought, fearing that the use of pesticides could end by contaminating pastures and consequently the herds. The strange invasion is moving slowly from south to north and has literally demolished the crops in its path. [Text]
[Lisbon O DIA in Portuguese 21 Mar 83 p 9] 6362

CSO: 5400/2529

EEC TEAM PROBING BANANA WEEVIL, NEMATODE INFESTATION IN KAGERA

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 27 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Attilio Tagalile]

[Excerpt]

A TWO-man team from the European Economic Community (EEC) is in Kagera region exploring the extent and seriousness of banana weevils and nematodes which have been attacking bananas in the region.

According to the Kagera Regional Agricultural Officer, Ndugu Joseph Shija the EEC team will also conduct field investigation on the current banana growing practices in the region with a view to finding out how they have contributed to the problem.

He said the team will visit a number of banana plantations in the region and look critically at research, experiments, insecticides and nematicides which have so far been employed in the struggle to get a lasting solution to banana weevils and nematodes.

The team is also expected to visit Maruku Agricultural Research Institute which specialises in banana research in the country.

The Maruku Acting Director, Ndugu M. Mbwana has told the *Sunday News* that the report, to be compiled by the team, would be presented

to the EEC headquarters in Brussels.

Ndugu Mbwana declined to say whether the EEC would assist in providing insecticides and nematicides to fight banana weevils and nematodes, noting that "the decision to assist or otherwise purely lie with the EEC".

He, however, said that the formulated report would form the basis of a project report that could be floated to donors for assistance.

According to last year's statistics, about 65 per cent (90,000 hectares) of banana plantation had been attacked by weevils and nematodes in Kagera Region.

However, research conducted by Maruku Research Institute on numerous pesticides imported by the government indicated that *Carbofuran* whose trade name is *Furadan* was the most effective chemical for banana weevils and nematodes.

But one snag with *Furadan* has been its prohibitive price both to the government and banana growers in the country. For three recommended applications, *Furadan* consumes 1,000/- per banana hectare.

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION REVIEWED--The northern provinces sowed or transplanted on 1.24 million hectares, that is 96 percent of the plan. The southern provinces and cities sowed or transplanted winter-spring rice on some 600,000 hectares, that is 91 percent of the plan. Rice in the central Vietnam coastal provinces is being hit by severe drought. The rice acreage affected by harmful insects also increased compared with last week. More than 100,000 hectares of rice are being affected by insects. Noteworthy in livestock breeding over the past week was that epidemics existed among pigs and cattle in a number of areas, particularly in Thanh Hoa. The province had 100,000 pigs, buffaloes and cows affected by disease; many of them died. [OW051417 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Mar 83]

CSO: 5400/4400

END